

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

A. Status of Pending Claims and Explanation of Amendments

Applicants respectfully request the cancellation of claims 2-7, 12, 26, 27, 31-37, 39, 40, 71-73, 87, and 88 without prejudice towards the further prosecution of these claims in a continuation application. Accordingly, claims 21, 22, 46, 47, 55, 56, 59-61, 82, 83, 85, and 86 are currently pending. Furthermore, the Examiner has allowed claims 82, 83, 85, and 86.

The Examiner specifically requested clarification in the Office Action as to whether claim 4 should be cancelled. Applicants respond by requesting the cancellation of claim 4 without prejudice.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, for allegedly being indefinite for failing to point out and particularly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have requested the cancellation of claims 39-40 without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims under §112 moot.

Claims 2-7, 12, 26-27, 31-37, and 87-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,188,472 to Chang ("Chang"). However, Applicants have requested in this paper the cancellation of claims 2-7, 12, 26-27, 31-37, and 87-88 without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection under §102(b) moot.

The Examiner has objected to claims 21, 22, 26, 27, 46, 47, 55, 56, and 59-61 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. However, the Examiner explained by telephone on July 31, 2003 that claims 26 and 27 were inadvertently included in this list of objected claims. In any event, claims 26 and 27 were canceled by Applicants, rendering the objection of these two claims moot. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 21, 46, and 55 to be independent claims as prescribed by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21, 46, and 55 are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 22, 47, 56, and 59-61, which depend from independent claims 21, 46, or 55, are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,
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